

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

[0079] An optical pickup includes an aberration correction element to correct chromatic aberration caused by variation of power from a light source when changing between operating modes in a recording medium. The aberration correction includes a first retardation member, which includes a stepped convex pattern with a plurality of steps at one side, and a second retardation member combined with the first retardation member. The second retardation member includes a stepped concave pattern with a plurality of steps at one side facing the first retardation member, the stepped concave pattern corresponding to the stepped convex pattern. The first and the second retardation members include different refractive indices for a light beam, which allows the first and the second retardation members to selectively create a phase difference of an incident light beam according to a polarization of the incident light beam.